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FOR MILWAUKEE COUNTY/WOW COUNTIES

MARCH 2003



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The **Milwaukee County** unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) is 7.0 percent in February and remains unchanged from January's rate. Like many counties in Wisconsin, this month's rate is lower than the previous February, two-tenths of a point lower. It is not uncommon for Milwaukee County's rate to increase slightly from January to February.

The **Ozaukee County** unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) is 4.4 percent, up one-tenth of a percentage point over the month and down two-tenths of a point compared to February 2002. This monthly rate increase is typical as many will enter the labor force, unemployed and looking for work.

The **Washington County** unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) is 6.1 percent. This is two-tenths of a percentage point higher than last month and the same amount higher than last February's unemployment rate. The county's average unemployment rate for February from 1990-2001 is 4.1 percent.

The **Waukesha County** unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) is 4.9 percent in February. This is one-tenth of a point higher than January's rate and is lower than last February's rate of 5.1 percent.

The **Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA** industry figures for the month of February indicate a net increase of just over 1,100 new jobs since January. Individual industry performances show a very scattered but somewhat predictable performance. The overall gain of jobs was anchored in the 4,540 job increase in government employment, which was specifically the result of an increase in local government/school district employment reporting, that in all likelihood reflects employment in January, but was reported in the February industry survey. This school employment change represents an estimated five percent of February's total government employ-

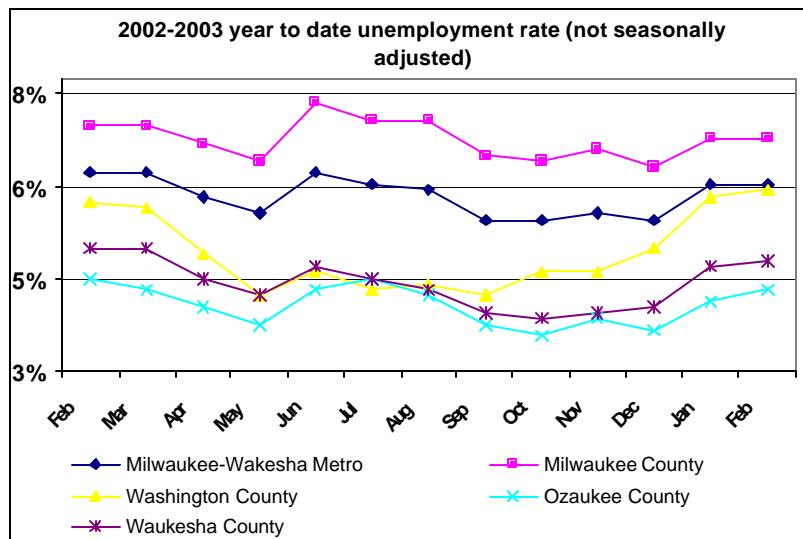
ment. This large increase was offset by monthly decreases in retail trade, which was a larger decrease than usual for this month. Larger than expected decreases in employment were also seen in professional and business services, leisure and hospitality, financial activities, and construction employment. Education and health services shows monthly growth, though it has certainly been stronger in past years from January to February. Most likely, the majority of growth has come from the educational services side of the equation, rather than from the health care portion.

The annual industry data show a net loss of jobs, -5,820 jobs, which is the second straight February to show an annual decrease. This February's annual loss is not nearly as extreme as the loss exhibited in February 2002 (-28,200 jobs). Nonetheless, a few industries are showing annual deficits. The largest volume deficit is manufacturing employment at -5,690 jobs compared to last February. This is a difference of about four percent over the year. Most of this

manufacturing loss is centered in the durable goods-producing industries.

Services-oriented industries are also experiencing losses in annual employment. Professional and business services industries report almost 1,500 fewer jobs than in February of 2002. Most of this loss is centered in professional, scientific and technical services, which had previously been displaying slight growth, even in a slowing economy. This industry is quite large in the Milwaukee metro area and is considered to be a growth industry so it will be a key employment arena to watch over the next few months.

Retail trade is also showing an annual loss. This is the 15th straight month that the Milwaukee area has seen a retail employment deficit.



February 2003	Wisconsin	Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA	Milwaukee County/WDA	Washington County	Ozaukee County	Waukesha County	W-O-W WDA
Civilian Labor Force*	3,080,285	826,497	488,375	70,797	49,108	218,216	338,121
Persons Employed	2,881,775	775,036	454,211	66,443	46,953	207,429	320,825
Persons Unemployed	198,510	51,461	34,164	4,354	2,155	10,787	17,296
Unemployment Rate	6.4%	6.2%	7.0%	6.1%	4.4%	4.9%	5.1%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries**	2,731,191	822,336	522,819	46,893	37,161	215,394	299,448
Goods Producing Jobs	622,284	169,949	82,043	16,117	11,682	60,107	87,906
Service Producing Jobs	2,108,907	652,387	440,777	30,776	25,478	155,287	211,415
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	105,544	30,037	11,767	2,647	1,382	14,241	18,345
All Manufacturing	516,740	139,912	70,276	13,470	10,301	45,866	69,808
Total Trade	421,133	120,926	66,289	7,266	5,363	41,939	55,356
Wholesale Trade	113,775	40,135	20,263	2,032	1,404	16,436	20,017
Retail Trade	307,358	80,791	46,026	5,218	3,945	25,602	35,390
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	103,953	29,415	21,925	1,526	441	5,523	7,615
Financial Activities	152,951	57,772	39,986	1,953	2,003	13,830	17,937
Education and Health Services	360,777	127,103	93,380	5,260	4,357	24,106	33,534
Leisure & Hospitality	223,611	59,962	38,442	4,182	2,978	14,360	21,761
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	422,189	158,846	110,636	5,258	5,822	37,130	48,270
Information	49,699	19,225	13,210	462	305	5,248	6,072
Professional and Business Services	235,782	98,552	71,100	2,196	3,656	21,600	27,538
Other Services	136,708	41,069	26,326	2,600	1,861	10,282	14,660
All Government	424,293	98,363	70,117	5,333	4,514	18,399	26,942
Change from January 2003							
Civilian Labor Force*	12,810	1,650	740	230	140	540	910
Persons Employed	6,620	1,100	650	100	70	300	460
Persons Unemployed	6,190	550	100	130	70	240	450
Unemployment Rate	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries**	10,210	1,120	1,230	40	60	-220	-120
Goods Producing Jobs	-6,810	-470	-220	-40	-30	-170	-250
Service Producing Jobs	17,020	1,590	1,450	90	90	-50	130
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	-3,010	-120	-50	-10	-10	-60	-80
All Manufacturing	-3,800	-350	-170	-30	-30	-110	-170
Total Trade	-4,580	-1,750	-980	-100	-80	-610	-790
Wholesale Trade	-810	-290	-150	-15	-10	-120	-150
Retail Trade	-3,770	-1,450	-830	-94	-71	-460	-630
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	290	-490	-370	-30	-10	-90	-120
Financial Activities	-160	-490	-340	-20	-20	-120	-150
Education and Health Services	2,810	710	520	30	20	130	190
Leisure & Hospitality	-2,200	-670	-430	-50	-30	-160	-240
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	500	-260	-200	0	0	-60	-60
Information	-780	-180	-130	-4	-3	-50	-60
Professional and Business Services	1,580	-310	-220	-7	-11	-70	-90
Other Services	-300	230	150	15	10	60	80
All Government	20,350	4,540	3,240	250	210	850	1300
Change from February 2002							
Civilian Labor Force*	67,630	10,390	5,860	1,190	590	2,750	4,540
Persons Employed	74,310	11,340	6,650	970	690	3,040	4,690
Persons Unemployed	-6,680	-950	-790	220	-90	-280	-160
Unemployment Rate	-0.4%	-0.2%	-0.2%	0.2%	-0.2%	-0.2%	-0.1%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries**	13,380	-5,820	-2,850	-500	-390	-2,140	-3,040
Goods Producing Jobs	-12,790	-4,900	-2,550	-480	-380	-1,490	-2,350
Service Producing Jobs	26,170	-920	-300	-30	-10	-650	-690
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	-3,470	790	310	70	40	370	480
All Manufacturing	-9,320	-5,690	-2,860	-550	-420	-1,860	-2,830
Total Trade	-1,450	-1,970	-1,070	-100	-70	-800	-970
Wholesale Trade	1,080	-860	-430	-43	-30	-350	-420
Retail Trade	-2,530	-1,120	-640	-72	-55	-350	-480
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,840	-600	-450	-30	-10	-110	-150
Financial Activities	1,230	670	460	20	20	160	200
Education and Health Services	8,460	1,760	1,290	70	60	330	470
Leisure & Hospitality	2,910	-320	-200	-20	-20	-80	-110
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	10,400	-1,670	-1,200	-30	-50	-380	-460
Information	-1,640	-290	-200	-7	-5	-80	-90
Professional and Business Services	6,300	-1,490	-1,070	-33	-55	-330	-410
Other Services	5,740	110	70	7	5	30	40
All Government	2,780	1,220	870	70	60	230	350

* Labor force figures are **not** seasonally adjusted and are commonly revised. Figures from "place of residence" survey from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Local Area Unemployment Statistics program. **Figures based upon "place of employment" survey from the BLS, Non-Farm Wage and Salary estimates.

"XX" indicates that data is suppressed and has been aggregated with other industries. **Month and year ago change figures are rounded and may not sum to total**

*Questions and comments regarding this publication are welcome. Direct to: **Eric Grosso, State Labor Economist***
DWD-Labor Market Information P.O. Box 7944 Madison, WI 53707
608-266-7034 608-266-5887(FAX) E-mail: Eric.Grosso@dwd.state.wi.us
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